

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please REPLACE the last paragraph on page 8 with the following paragraph:

Therefore, the contour expansion unit 7 scans the partial contour image using a predetermined two-dimensional window, and then counts the number \underline{C} of the pixels in the window that do not have a contour level of 0. In addition, the contour expansion unit 7 calculates an average value A for the contour levels of the pixels in the window having a contour level that is not 0 (step S13 in Fig. 2b). The two-dimensional window has a pixel size of 5 x 5, for example.